REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.
Claims 1-17 and 22-23 are now pending.

Claims 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tamamura et al., U.S. 5,579,236. Without admitting to the propriety of the rejection, the Applicants have canceled Claims 18-21 without prejudice, to expedite allowance of Claims 1-17 and 22-23.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and
allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Stanger

Registration No. 32,846 Attorney for Applicant

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR 1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370 Alexandria, Virginia 22314 (703) 684-1120

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